

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Appln. No. 10/653,308

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October 12, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. Reference characters 41, 43 and 45 have been added.

Attachments: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2 sheets)
Replacement Sheets (6 sheets)

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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 44-66 are pending. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that Claims 45, 49, 51, 54, 58, 61, 63 and 66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitation of their respective base claims and any intervening claims upon which they depend.

Claims 44, 46-48, 52, 53, 57, 59, 60, 62, 64 and 65 are rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,727,312 to Durante. Claims 50 and 55 are rejected as obvious over Durante in view of Russian Patent RU 2030904 to Rogovsky. Claim 56 is rejected as obvious over Durante in view of Rogovsky and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,727,312 to Berg.

Summary of Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended the claims consistent with the Examiner's remarks as to allowability. To that end, the subject matter of allowable Claim 45 has been incorporated into Claim 44, Claim 45 being canceled. The subject matter of allowable Claim 49 has been combined with the subject matter of Claim 44 in new Claim 67. The subject matter of allowable Claim 51 and intervening Claim 50 have been combined with the subject matter of Claim 44 in new Claim 68. The subject matter of allowable Claim 54 and intervening Claims 53 and 52 have been combined with the subject matter of Claim 44 in new Claim 69. The subject matter of allowable Claim 58 has been incorporated into Claim 57, Claim 58 being canceled. The

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allowable subject matter of Claim 61 and intervening Claims 60 and 59 have been combined with the subject matter of Claim 57 in new Claim 70. The subject matter of Claim 63 has been incorporated into Claim 62, Claim 63 being canceled. The allowable subject matter of Claim 66 and intervening Claims 65 and 64 have been combined with the subject matter of Claim 62 in new Claim 71.

Applicant contends that pending Claims 44, 46-57, 59-62 and 64-71 are allowable consistent with the Examiner's remarks.

Amendments to the Drawings and Specification

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and the specification, requesting that the claimed axes be labeled in the drawings and described in the specification.

Applicant encloses herewith annotated drawing sheets depicting revisions to Figures 1 and 2 by the addition of reference characters 41, 43 and 45 shown circled in red ink for the Examiner's review and approval. Reference character 41 identifies the axis of rotation of the head 3, that axis being recited in the claims as "a first axis of rotation". Reference character 43 identifies the longitudinal axis of the body 1, so recited in the claims. Reference character 45 identifies the axis of rotation of the dental instrument 4, the axis being recited as "a second axis of rotation" in the claims. Applicants note that only reference characters have been added to the drawings, the depiction of the various axes themselves having been in the drawings as originally filed. Applicant also provides replacement sheets, Figures 1-6. No new matter has been added.

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Applicant has also amended the specification, providing replacement paragraphs on pages 5 and 6 which include the reference characters added to the drawings and describing the various axes, thereby bringing the specification into compliance with the drawings by identifying the axes depicted in the drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Summary

Applicant has amended the claims consistent with the allowable subject matter and revised the drawings and specification to identify the various axes recited in the claims. Applicant contends that with the amendments provided herein the application is in condition for allowance and requests, respectfully, that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAC/dml
Enclosures

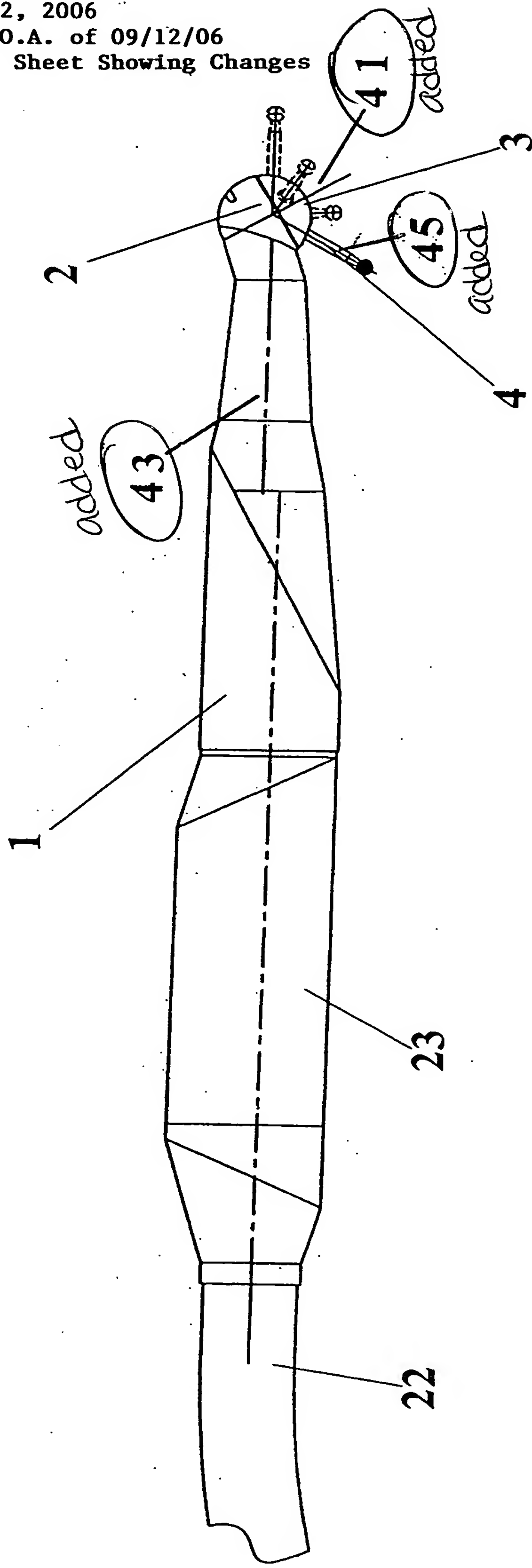


Fig. 1

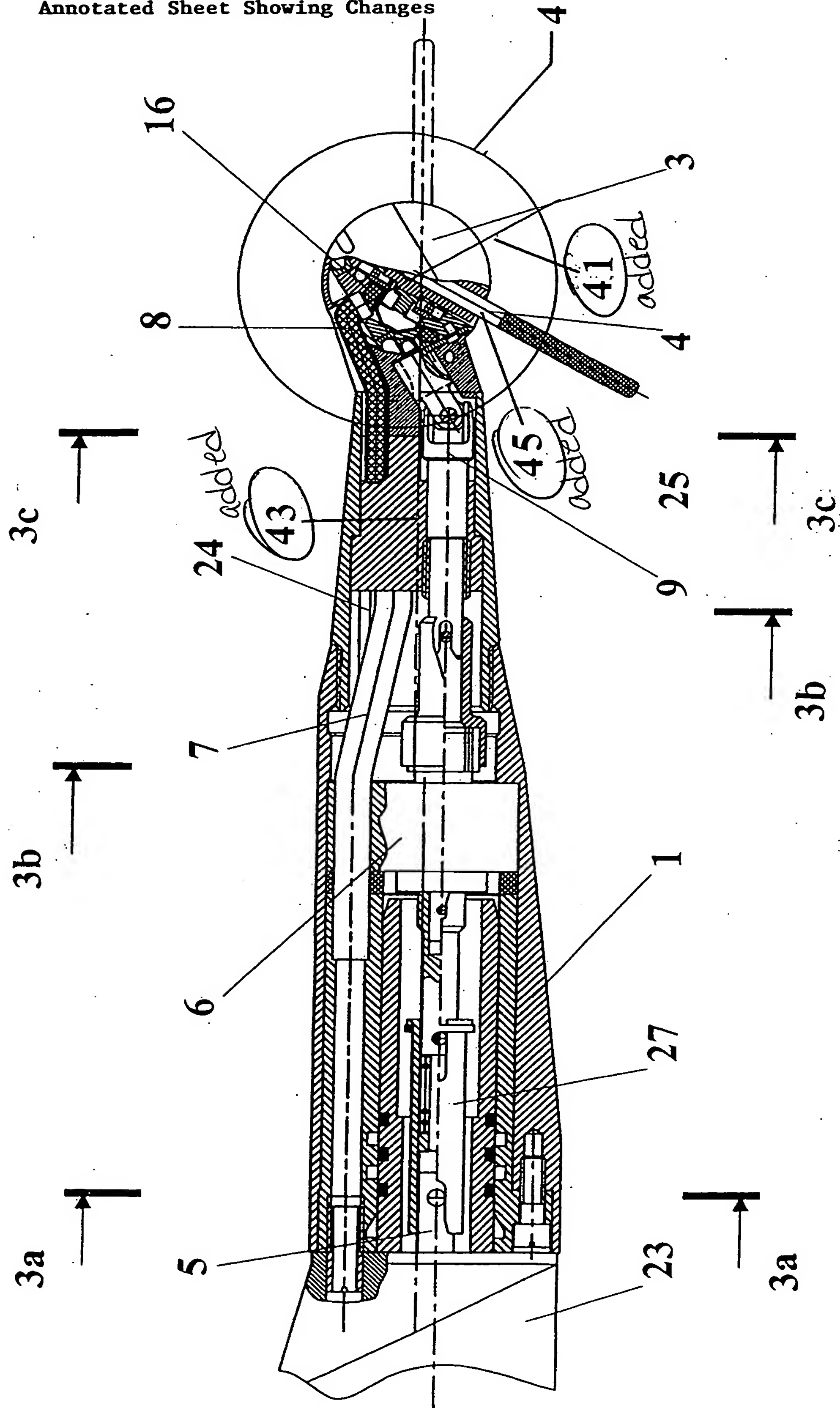


Fig. 2